

great strictness; but, in my opinion, the elder pages have too much power over the younger ones, who are treated like fags at Eton. I had an audience of the Queen two days ago; she is very much altered and has lost all her brilliancy of look. She was more gracious than ever, and said, "Vous arrivez dans un mauvais moment, chère Madame Swinburne. Vous ne me trouverez point gaie; j'ai beaucoup sur le cœur."

She is very low-spirited and uneasy about her son, who, by all accounts, lies dangerously ill, and is not likely to recover. She inquired kindly after all our family, and assured me she should consider Harry as under her care, and also spoke of our business, which Madame Campan had told her was my reason for now returning to France,

"Je crains," said she, "que dans ce moment je ne pourrai vous être d'aucune utilité; mais si les temps deviennent meilleurs, vous savez que je n'oublie jamais mes amis."

Apropos of that, I find it was by her desire that the Lucernes have shown us so much attention.

The whole tenor of her conversation

was
melancholy, but she said little about
public
affairs; her child's illness seemed
uppermost in